

## TRICKS OF OPERATORS.

RAILROAD TELEGRAPHERS USED TO GET A LITTLE SLEEP.

A Possible Explanation of Some Terrible Wrecks—How Men Realize the Grave Responsibility Which is Upon Them—A Day's Early Sleep.

The most undesirable work and the least remunerative among telegraphers is that of night operators at some lonely station on a railroad. The rules of the company require that these men shall remain awake at their posts from 7 p. m. till 7 a. m. to report passing trains and to receive and deliver mail, orders and telegrams. To regulate the movement of their trains. On double track roads their presence at their post is of great importance only to passengers, and to be sure they are a great hindrance. A system of signaling is in vogue on most roads by which every operator is required to report by wire to headquarters every half hour during the night.

On the Central Railroad of New Jersey between York and Philadelphia, the night telegrapher was at Elmhurst, the wire station of the office being "K. L." Every half hour in the night the telegrapher's operator would sound on the wire the signal "K. L. six, six, K. L." and each operator on the line from Jersey City to Philadelphia would have to sound his office signal in turn, beginning with "J. C." and ending with "K. L." If all the responses came the operator at "K. L." would say "O. K." and after a half hour of dreary silence would intervene to sleep.

ONE ACCIDENT TO SLEEP.

The operator at Somerville was on terms of intimate friendship with the one at Hampton Junction, and they arranged to sound each other's signals on alternate nights, so that the one for whom the other acted could sleep. Each, however, had to attend to the reporting of the trains that passed his station. The station at Somerville was between the north and south bound tracks, and the operator there invented an ingenious device by which he could go to sleep and still be awakened whenever a train should pass.

Taking two stout cords, he ran one out over the window and under the platform to one of the rails of the south bound track, to which he tied it. The other was run in a similar way, and fastened to the north bound track. Inside the office he made a loop in each of the cords at a convenient height. Laying back in his chair, with his head pillowed on a shelf, he put his right foot through one loop and his left through the other, both feet being about on a level with his head. This he did.

A north bound train came along, and the string and his left foot fell down with a jerk, and he was thrown from his chair. He fell out of the chair and his head struck the floor. Then a message would go to headquarters. Like this, "O. K. L. 3, 6, 6, No. 23, eng. 43, 118," meaning that Somerville reported north bound train No. 23, drawn by engine No. 43, passing at 11:18 a. m. The string was tied to the rail again, another loop made, and the operator went to sleep. When the next train came, a south bound, a glance at the clock showed what time was due according to the schedule.

Another operator used to fill a coil snout with with coupling pins, of scraps of iron and tin, and fasten the coil to the floor to a string tied to the rails. When a train came along the snout would fall with a crash loud enough almost to be heard at the dispatcher's headquarters.

On the Baltimore and Annapolis division of the Pennsylvania road, where balloon signals are used, such devices are not available, and the operators must remain awake every moment of the long night. The "balloon" as it is called, is a single track road, and the signal is a red light, the light to regulate the movement of trains. It is over this division that the Pennsylvania's heavy coal traffic is brought down to Trenton and to Port Authority. The balloon signal is an oblong hollow cone, painted red, flange, and kept in shape by a screw on top.

By a double cord attachment connecting with the operator's table it can be lowered or raised at will. If lowered it is a danger signal that no train dare pass. If raised the signal is "all clear" and no train need stop. At night a white lantern is hung under the balloon, which when lowered shows a red light through the red flange. If raised the white light shows, signaling that everything is "all right."

The orders of this company are that the balloon must be kept down at all times day and night, showing the red signal, and only raised when a train approaches for which no orders have been received. Thus a terrible responsibility falls upon the operator who has complete control of the signal. If he receives an order for a train and forgets it, or becomes confused and raises the signal, the result is sure to be a collision. Fortunately the operators on that division are faithful men who evidently never sleep on duty. Perhaps a sense of the responsibility keeps them awake. The operator at Washington crossing, just above Trenton, nearly a score of years ago was a young boy, who could not resist the temptation to run about to parties and on excursions during the day. As a rule he was most powerfully inclined to sleep at night. Twice he did so, and was then discharged.

The first occasion resulted in the wreck of a coal train, and the other in breaking a freight train in two. The coal train stopped on the heavy grade, near the third down, and the engineer coming in for orders found the boy sound asleep. He woke him roughly, and in deep anger started again for his engine. Being angry he started up too quickly, and broke a coupling on the tenth car, the engine and the ten cars starting down the grade very fast. "O. K. brakes" had been whistled, and the second section coming on rushed into the first, piling up a dozen cars. Almost the same thing happened to the freight, and the young operator was almost to look for a day job on some other road.—New York Tribune.

Several Versions of a Maxim.

Popular maxima credit certain individuals with criminal proclivities. The Roman says, "The man and little color—there is nothing worse under heaven." In French it is, "God preserve me from a beardless man," and in Tuscan, "Salute from after a beardless man and a bearded woman," and in Venetian, "Trust not the woman with a man's voice."—New York Times.

Shaving is a la Mode.

Barbers on the French steamers arriving at New York are said to have regular patrons among their compatriots who visit the steamers upon every arrival, bent upon having their heads kept trimmed in the ultra fashion of the boulevard.—Philadelphia Ledger.

It the Ocean Should Be Tired.

The depth of the ocean presents an interesting problem. If the Atlantic were lowered 10,000 feet, the distance from shore to shore would be half its present of 1,500 miles. If lowered a little more than three miles, say 15,000 feet, there would be a great deal of land from Newfoundland to Ireland.—Oceano.

A False and Stupid Prejudice.

There is a bit of provincial philosophy about the belief that a "watched kettle never boils." False philosophy, which is taken from the fact that a kettle which is not heated by a fire will not boil. In the other a stupid mistake, in either a kettle and a watchman. New York Times.

## JIM CROW'S STRATAGEM.

How a Washington Thief Made an Honest Living While in Jail.

In a dilapidated little hotel near the river front dwells a character well known to certain strata of Washington society as Jim Crow. Jim is a thief, and will, as he states, steal anything from a chicken to a locomotive. In this city, where his light colored habits have become well known to the police, he confines himself—under protest, however—to chickens, and the floor of his hut is covered with feathers several inches thick. Feathers being a marketable commodity, as well as distinguishing marks by which trade chicken fowls can sometimes identify their fowls, Jim picks his birds before selling, and carpets his residence with their feathers until a sufficient quantity is obtained to make it worth while to sell them.

Jim's former grazing grounds were in Baltimore county, Md., where his considerable business was that of a huckster, but his internal love of refined associations and architectural beauty, as well as too clear an acquaintance with the inmates of law in Baltimore county, led him to select the capital as his future home. And then, too, Jim, having grown old in idleness, is getting old in years, and finds more pleasure in gathering around him a group of refined listeners, and telling them the stories of his former escapades than of re-creating them. He tells with great humor and expression how, when a young and an enterprising huckster, desirous of making as fine an appearance before the public as possible, he exchanged the rickety and battered wheels of his cart for the more pretentious ones of a neighbor's vehicle while that neighbor was in a country tavern. He also dealt in cattle—other people's cattle—which he sold to the slaughter houses in Baltimore.

Once when fortune had been frowning upon his efforts and his pockets were empty, he conceived and carried out the bold scheme of visiting the yards of one of the slaughter houses, stealing therefrom a few chickens, and with a white star on his forehead, covering the white mark with a handkerchief, and selling the animal to its rightful owner, who did not discover the theft until he had cut the bull up into steaks.

One of Jim's best efforts was planned while sojourning one summer in the Baltimore county jail. His term was nearly at its end, and he was revolving in his fertile brain what to do with his liberty after obtaining it. He had \$5 secreted in his cell, which he wished to invest at the highest possible rate of interest. His ingenuity did not fail him, and he determined to escape, and take with him two of his fellow prisoners. With this object in view, he went to work, and after much labor displaced enough bricks from the wall of his cell to permit of escape. He then permitted the two men he had selected to discover his plot. They, of course, insisted upon accompanying him, and after much hesitation and only upon their threatening to turn informers he consented, and proceeded to enlarge the hole in the wall in order that one of the men, a large fat fellow, could creep through.

On the night fixed the three prisoners with soft and cut like bread stole through the prison walls and soon breathed the sweet air of freedom. They made for the woods, and there Jim outlined to them his plan of operations. He gave them money enough to go to Havre de Grace, telling them to meet him at a certain point near that station two days later. This arrangement was agreed to, and Jim sent the officers to Havre de Grace with directions how and where to find the two men, and then returned to jail, served out his term, and left with \$250 and a thorough contempt for the uselessness of the clump he left behind.—Washington Post.

Love Across a Continent.

The latest version of "The Girl I Left Behind Me" comes from California. In this case the young man did not seem to realize the girl's attractions until he got across the continent, and then, after a year or two of hard work in California, and with the prospect of wealth before him, he belittled himself of a girl he had once used to be a sweetheart of his in Maine. He wrote to her to see if she had forgotten him. She hadn't, and cordially answered the letter. The return mail brought a proposal of marriage, which was accepted. A ticket for California came next, and though her friends did not quite approve of the journey the young lady started. "Gullible" some who have made similar trips, disliked both the fair awaiting her and its possessor even better than she thought the did before she saw them. The wedding came next, and everybody was happy at last accounts.—New York Tribune.

To Destroy Insects on Animals.

A wash made of the water in which potatoes have been boiled is certain means of destroying insects on animals. The first application is generally effective, but it had better be repeated a few times in order to destroy the eggs. The same means may be used against the parasites in which mange originates, and probably would remove plant lice also. This insecticidal property of the potato is supposed to be owing to the solanine, which is one of its constituents.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

A Veteran Mule.

At Centerville in Dauphin county, is a veteran mule that deserves to be placed on the government pension list. He is 47 years old, but notwithstanding his age shows a great deal of endurance when driven by his owner, R. F. Dabolski. This mule made use in the service of the United States during the Mexican war. When the rebellion broke out he again entered the service of Uncle Sam, but before the war was over he was engaged by the Confederates and sent to do duty for them. This mule is now in the hands of R. F. Dabolski, who is a plain, old-fashioned farmer. He was bred on his farm, and is a quarter of a century ago.—West Chester News.

Dr. W. P. LAWRENCE,

(Formerly of Orlando, Fla.)

Is now located at Clarksville, Tenn. Arlington Block, and offers his professional services to the citizens of Montgomery and neighboring counties.

—SPECIALTIES.—

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W. O. Brandon, at the LEAF CHRONICLE office, is agent for the "Caligraph," one of the best and fastest type-writers made, while it is sold for less money than any other best class machine. He will take pleasure in showing the Caligraph to any one contemplating the purchase of a writing machine. There are now five or six Caligraphs in the city and all are giving perfect satisfaction.

Business in Kentucky.

The LEAF Job Office has some extra good chronic envelopes, numbers 6 and 6, at 10¢ each, in lots of 2,000 to 10,000, either printed or plain. There are also of these envelopes and a bargain in every lot.

## THE GREAT SOUTH AMERICAN

NERVINE TONIC

AND

Stomach and Liver Cure

The Most Astonishing Medical Discovery of the Last One Hundred Years.

It is Pleasant to the Taste as the Sweetest Nectar. It is Safe and Harmless as the Purest Milk.

This wonderful Nervine Tonic has only recently been introduced into this country by the Great South American Medicine Company, and yet its great value as a curative agent has long been known by the native inhabitants of South America, who rely almost wholly upon its great medicinal powers to cure every form of disease by which they are overtaken.

This new and valuable South American medicine possesses powers and qualities hitherto unknown to the medical profession. This medicine has completely solved the problem of the cure of Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, and diseases of the general Nervous System. It also cures all forms of failing health from whatever cause. It performs this by the Great Nervine Tonic qualities which it possesses and by its great curative powers upon the digestive organs, the stomach, the liver and the bowels. No remedy compares with this wonderfully valuable Nervine Tonic as a builder and strengthener of the life forces of the human body and as a great renewer of a broken down constitution. It is also of more real permanent value in the treatment and cure of diseases of the Lungs than any ten consumption remedies ever used on this continent. It is a marvelous cure for nervousness of females of all ages. Ladies who are approaching the critical period known as change in life, should not fail to use this great Nervine Tonic almost constantly for the space of two or three years. It will carry them safely over the danger. This great strengthener and curative is of inestimable value to the aged and infirm, because its great energizing properties will give them a new hold on life. It will add ten or fifteen years to the lives of many of those who will use a half dozen bottles of the remedy each year.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral,

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Solely at all Druggists. Price 25¢, 50¢, and \$1.00.

A GENTLE REMEDY for an old reliable form of large profits, quick sales. Sample free. A rare opportunity. Geo. A. Scott, 107 N. 3rd St., N.Y.

Thomas Rohner,

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ANCIENT EDITION.

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Have you Cough, Bronchitis, Asthma, Indigestion, Nervous Prostration, or any other of the worst cases and it is the best remedy for all the ailments from defective action. Take in time. 50¢ and \$1.00.

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NERVOUS DISEASES.

As a cure for every class of Nervous Diseases, no remedy has been able to compare with the Nervine Tonic, which is very pleasant and harmless in all its effects upon the youngest child or the oldest and most delicate individual. Nine-tenths of all the ailments to which the human family is heir, are dependent on nervous exhaustion and impaired digestion. When there is an insufficient supply of nerve food in the blood, a general state of debility of the brain, spinal marrow and nerves is the result. Starved nerves, like starved muscles, become strong when the right kind of food is supplied, and a thousand weaknesses and ailments disappear as the nerves recover. As the nervous system must supply all the power by which the vital forces of the body are carried on, it is the first to suffer for want of perfect nutrition. Ordinary food does not contain a sufficient quantity of the kind of nutriment necessary to repair the wear our present mode of living and labor imposes upon the nerves. For this reason it becomes necessary that a nerve food be supplied. This recent production of the South American Continent has been found, by analysis, to contain the essential elements out of which nerve tissue is formed. This accounts for its magic power to cure all forms of nervous derangements.

CHAMBERSVILLE, IND., Aug. 20, '88.

To the Great South American Medicine Co.:

Dear Sir:—I desire to say to you that I have suffered for many years with a very bad case of nervous prostration, and I have tried every medicine I could find, but nothing has done me any appreciable good until I was advised to try your Great South American Nervine Tonic. I have now used several bottles of it, and I can say that it has cured me of my nervous prostration, and I feel like a new man. I do not think there has ever been a medicine introduced into this country which will do all I compare with this Nervine Tonic as a cure for the stomach.

My daughter, eleven years old, was severely afflicted with St. Vitus's Dance or Chorea. We gave her three and one-half bottles of South American Nervine and she is completely restored. I believe it will cure every case of St. Vitus's Dance. I have kept it in my family for two years, and am sure it is the greatest remedy in the world for Indigestion and Dyspepsia, all forms of Nervous Disorders and Failing Health from whatever cause.

JOHN T. MANN.

State of Indiana, Montgomery County, ss: I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original, as the same was presented to me for filing.

CHAMBERSVILLE, IND., June 22, 1887.

My daughter, eleven years old, was severely afflicted with St. Vitus's Dance or Chorea. We gave her three and one-half bottles of South American Nervine and she is completely restored. I believe it will cure every case of St. Vitus's Dance. I have kept it in my family for two years, and am sure it is the greatest remedy in the world for Indigestion and Dyspepsia, all forms of Nervous Disorders and Failing Health from whatever cause.

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